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NIP-144-02

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid from a sample containing the nucleic acid, which comprises:

a nucleic acid trapping pipette tip containing a solid phase substance containing silica capable of contacting with a liquid;

a liquid sucking-and-discharging movable nozzle detachably connecting said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip;

a treating container capable of containing a mixture of a substance for enhancing binding of said nucleic acid with said solid phase substance and a sample containing the nucleic acid;

means for supplying a washing solution to said treating container;

means for supplying ~~a eluting solution~~ a first solution and a second solution to said treating container;

a purified product container for receiving a purified product of the nucleic acid;

transferring means for connecting said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip in an unused state to said liquid sucking-and-discharging movable nozzle and for moving said

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nucleic acid trapping pipette tip in a connected state to positions of said treating container and said purified product container;

liquid sucking-and-discharging operating means for sucking and discharging said mixture from and to said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip connected to said liquid sucking-and-discharging movable nozzle, and sucking and discharging said washing solution after sucking and discharging said mixture, and then sucking and discharging said eluting solution; and

tip detaching means for detaching said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip from said liquid sucking-and-discharging movable nozzle after discharging the eluting solution from said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip to said purified product container, wherein

said liquid sucking-and-discharging operating means sucks and discharges said first eluting solution into and from said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip after sucking and discharging said mixture and said washing solution, then sucks and discharges said second eluting solution into and from said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip, and

said purified product container receives said purified product of the nucleic acid by said discharging of said first and second eluting solutions from said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip.

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11. (Original) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid according to claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip comprises a liquid communicable preventative member for preventing said solid phase substance in said nucleic acid trapping pipette tip from flowing out.

12. (Original) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid according to claim 11, wherein said preventative member is made of poly(vinylidene fluoride).

13. (Original) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid according to claim 11, wherein said preventative member is arranged at a position nearer to a connecting terminal with said liquid sucking-and-discharging movable nozzle than a containing region of said solid phase substance, and has an insertion assisting guide formed therein.

14. (Original) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid according to claim 10, which comprises a liquid pipette tip for pipetting said sample and said binding enhancer to said treating container.

Claims 15-20 (Canceled)

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21. (New) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said solid phase substance is glass beads and silica beads.

22. (New) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said solid phase substance is a quartz filter.

23. (New) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said solid phase substance is quartz wool.

24. (New) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said solid phase substance is crushed things of glass beads, silica beads, a quartz filter or quartz wool.

25. (New) A method of treating nucleic acids as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said eluting solutions are a low concentration saline or water.

26. (New) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid as defined in claim 10, characterized in that syringe pump being driven by a motor so as to perform a sucking-and-discharging operating, and said step b) to k) are performed according to a

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predetermined program executed by a computer, so that said predetermined program controls said motor for driving said syringe pump.

27. (New) An apparatus for purifying nucleic acid as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said eluting solutions are heated.